



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Tomzak and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, Interim City Manager
DATE: June 2, 2009
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Economic Development Staff Plants Trees and Cultivates Future Meetings Business - As part of the "Virginia is for Lovers" 40th anniversary, a staffer in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism participated in a "Virginia Gives Back" event. Meeting planners were invited to join representatives from Virginia tourism marketing organizations to plant forty trees at Potomac Overlook Park in Northern Virginia. This was an opportunity to be eco-friendly while at the same time cultivating new potential clients.

Military Reunion Planners Review Area for Future Events - Military reunion planners and their guests were hosted by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism on May 4-6 as part of a Reunion Friendly Network ConfAM. Thanks to the generosity of the local hospitality industry, these twenty-nine planners were taken on site visits at area hotels, visited many of the area's attractions and enjoyed excellent meals at our restaurants. The three-day event concluded with an evening wreath laying ceremony at the Fredericksburg Area War Memorial where Vice Mayor Devine addressed the gathering.

Many of the military reunion planners in attendance are involved with planning numerous reunions. The benefits from this ConfAM will be felt for years to come. In addition, Fredericksburg will be highlighted as a reunion-friendly destination in an upcoming issue of the Reunion Friendly News magazine sent to over 8,500 military reunion planners.

Fire Department Receives New Life-Saving Equipment - The Fire service has traditionally focused their emphasis on how to prevent fires, how to extinguish fires more effectively with little or no loss of property, and how to rescue and revive those individuals who could not escape from the dangers of fire and smoke. Over time, with increased significance placed on household pets, methods and equipment have been developed to facilitate the resuscitation of animals. This resulted in the creation of a system of masks developed by SurgiVet. The SurgiVet Recovery Oxygen Masks are used in the resuscitation of animals that have been rescued from fires and have been exposed to smoke and need supplemental oxygen.

The Fredericksburg Fire Department recently received a donation from City residents Holly and Heidi Hubbell of four sets of SurgiVet Recovery Oxygen Masks. The masks will be placed in service by the

middle of June, and all department personnel will be trained in their use. This donation will allow the Fire Department to better serve the citizens of Fredericksburg and their beloved companion animals.

Planning Department Working on Improvements to Train Station - The Planning staff is working with VRE to complete the permitting process to allow for improvements to the VRE platform and general repairs to the railroad viaducts. Several years ago, Joe Wilson sent CSX a large chunk of concrete that had fallen from a viaduct over Princess Anne Street. The late Congressional Representative Jo Ann Davis worked to obtain a \$2 million earmark in Federal funds for the project, and VRE has been coordinating with the City to develop a suitable scope of work. While the available funding appears significant, the cost of repairs to the 1927 concrete structure is prohibitive. Working with an engineering firm called STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates, VRE has developed a plan that includes reinstallation of missing glass panels on the south VRE platform, improvements to the north platform (to include raising the platform, replacement of railings, and improved drainage), installation of metal fencing to keep people out from underneath the viaducts, and a carefully considered amount of concrete repairs. If additional funds are available, a new concrete stairway will also be installed between the City's 108-space VRE lot and the Caroline Street sidewalk, where riders have already worn a path. Planning staff is coordinating this project with other City departments so this investment in the City will not be delayed.

Police Investigation Leads to Resolution of Many Cases – On May 13, a resident on Parcell Street reported a larceny of credit cards and a digital camera from her unlocked vehicle. The victim's credit card was later used to make purchases at a business in the city, and surveillance video from the store led to the identification of an offender named Douglas Snider, also a Fredericksburg resident. The subsequent investigation pointed to Snider as the offender in eleven recent cases of larcenies from vehicles in the College Heights neighborhood, as well as four cases of stolen vehicles from 2008. Snider has also named additional offenders in these and other pending investigations. The investigation continues and multiple indictments are expected against Snider and his co-offenders.

Beverly R. Cameron